THE
SOUTHERN CROSS

Published bi-monthly by the Ev. Lutheran Church in British Guiana
New Amsterdam, British Guiana.

Editor—Pastor H. C. Magalee Asst. Editor—Mr. Cyril S. Chu.

Vol. ~~XXII~~ XV. 1 January—February, 1956

REV. DR. HERMAN L. GILBERT.

"..... as a physican to the sick"

On this, his fourth visit to B.G. ,our whole Church, once again extend to Dr. Gilbert, Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the U.L.C.A., a hearty welcome. Arriving from New York on February 15, Dr. Gilbert, was constantly engaged in meetings and interviews relating to the local Church. In spite of his very heavy schedule Dr. Gilbert at the request of the Editor, has written the following letter to us. We thank him very sincerely and wish him Godspeed as he leaves by air on March 13th.

Dear Christian friends in British Guiana

"Make it your aim to be at one in the Spirit, and you will inevitably be at peace with one another."

I have one consuming desire for you—that all of you may be deepened and strengthened in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. You know already what the Spirit produces in human life: love peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, adaptability, and self-control. You are well aware that "the activities of the lower nature are obvious." St. Paul's list of lower activities includes "immorality, impurity of mind, sensuality, worship of false gods, witchcraft, hatred, quarrelling, jealousy, bad temper, rivalry, factions, party-spirit, envy, drunkenness."

Together with St. Paul "our ambition for you is true Christian maturity."

To this end I commend you to a diligent, daily use of God's word. May each parish intensify its teacher-training program its wider use of the newly-developed Sunday school materials, its regular parish visitation, its larger out-reach in personal evangelism and training for Christian living. and its steward-ship of life and possessions to the glory of God.

Only as the Body of Christ in British Guiana is made strong in the true spirit of Christ can the serious illness of the Church be overcome. Believe me our Church in British Guiana is suffering a serious illness.

Therefore with St. Paul "if you believe in goodness and if you value the approval of God, fix your minds on the things which are holy and right and pure and beautiful and good."

Finally "let us be Christ's men from head to foot, and give no chances to the flesh to have its fling."

HERMAN L. GILBERT,
Secretary for British Guiana

THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Convention met at Ebenezer Church, New Amsterdam and began with the Service of Holy Communion on Wednesday night, February 29. The Liturgy was read by the President of the Church, Pastor Bowen, and Dr. Herman L. Gilbert preached a sermon on the subject "Why Christ Died?"

In the following days meditations were given by Catechist Kowlessar, Catechist Seeram, Pastor Meyer, Catechist K. Persaud and Mr. R. Woo-Chung. Catechist Jahoor and Mr. D. Tiwari served as liturgists.

Dr. Gilbert. Immediately preceeding the business session, the President on behalf of the Church, extended a cordial welcome to Dr. Herman L. Gilbert, one of the Secretaries of the Board of Foreign Missions and Secretary to the local field. This was Dr. Gilbert's fourth visit to B G.

In addressing Convention, Dr. Gilbert first brought greetings from the President of the Board of Foreign Missions. Dr. M.P. Moller and from the Executive Secretary, Dr. Earl S. Erb. He said that Dr. Erb should have accompanied him on this visit but that a recent and strenuous trip to and from Japan had so impaired his health that, his doctors advised him to cancel his trip to B. G.

Dr. Gilbert then went on to state the purpose of his visit. He said it was due to the very sick condition of the Church in B. G. and the deep concern which he and the Board of Foreign Missions felt over this condition. He came, therefore, in the capacity of a Physicia , in an earnest endeavour to help the sick. With great anguish, yet without despair, this great "Ambassador-physician" spoke about the ills of our Church and from the great depths of his manifold experiences and wisdom he counselled and guided. Gently, yet precisely, he endeavoured to lift the "patient" to a perspective—to a new vision of consecration and service in the Kingdom of Christ, the Lord of our lives. The urgent need for the patient, Dr. Gilbert said, was responsible government - orderly and progressive government.

Business Session Catechist A. Persaud was re-elected to the Executive Committee and Mr H. Baron in place of Mr. James Masih Das.

The reports of the various committees, of which more will be written in the next issue of this paper, were thoroughly discussed.

Closing Service. Convention ended on Friday evening with a solemn and inspiring service. The vice-president of the Church, Pastor Ingalls, conducted the liturgy and Dr. Gilbert preached.

The following were consecrated Catechists by Pastor Bowen, President of the Church:-

Harold Kowlessar, George Clarke, Harry Rajabally, Harry Persaud and Oscar Teekasingh.

On account of illness Nathan Roup and Kyte Ramessar were absent.

UPPER EAST COAST DEMERARA

PASTOR A. R. BOWEN

SALEM, Bachelor's Adventure.
On November 27, 1955 a very fine Harvest Service was held in the presence of a large gathering which graciously contributed gifts of all kinds. Two babies were offered to the Lord in Holy Baptism. A very fine Sacred Concert was held in the evening when most of the Sunday School children said their recitations and sang hymns. At the close of the concert all the children were entertained with refreshments.

On Wednesday, January 4, 1955, the Luther Leaguers held an entertainment. The proceedings created a spirit of love and fellowship among the members.

Enmore. This field was again blessed with a fine Harvest service and concert at which a very large gathering attended. Many souls have been blessed with the sacred songs and recitations which the children contributed.

THE UPPER BERBICE RIVER PARISH

PASTOR H. C. MAGALEE.

The Thirteenth Annual Parish Council Conference:- The Catechist and his family, the Church Council and every member of Grace Church opened their hearts and their hands in the reception of delegates and friends to this important annual assembly of the Parish.

The theme chosen was "Star-led Christians" which provided the inspiration for delegates as they mingled one with the other and as they left Conference to serve "The Bright and Morning Star" in their respective congregations and communities.

Opening Devotions. The Conference began with the service of Matins and Lay-reader Herman Leps read the liturgy. Mr. Moses Williams, vice-president of Grace Church Council, on behalf of his congregation and community, extended a warm and hearty greeting to the delegates and wished everyone an enjoyable stay at DeVelde. Catechist Kyte Ramessar of Reformation Church delivered a sound and appropriate sermon while Catechist Munro, of the host congregation, presided at the organ. During the announcements, Pastor Magalee briefly reviewed the history of Grace Church.

Lectures. Following this inspiring opening service delegates feasted on lectures given by:- Miss Ruth Zartman (2 periods) on "The Epistles of Peter"

Pastor F. Leland Ingalls (2 periods) on "The Book of Revelation."

These study periods provoked much thought and discussion and re-kindled an enthusiasm for the study of the Word of God

Afternoon Devotions. Catechist Fredericks of Mt. Hermon Church had charge of the devotions and gave an inspirating meditation. He was assisted by Catechist Nathan Roup of Mt. Olivet.

Business Session. This session took place on Saturday afternoon and occupied four hours.

The Pastor's Report for 1955 revealed that the Parish had grown by a net increase of 52 baptised members, 39 confirmed and by 21 communing.

Lutherans on the Berbice River had exceeded the thousand mark to a total of 1,018. There was a S.S. enrolment of 308 and a gross cash offering of $3,389.

Every congregation had met its Self-support goal and Mt. Olivet, Atonement, Reformation and Grace had far exceeded theirs. Thus the total contribution to the local Church was $2,250.

The Luther Leagues, too, had each met their apportioned objective for the "Sandhills Project" and all in all the Stewardship Life was becoming part and parcel of congregational activities. For all these rich blessings we see the never-falling hand of God and to Him we give praise and glory.

The Report of the Burial Society showed that membership had grown from 275 to 340—a factor which led Conference to increase the death-benefit from 60 to 75 dollars.

It was reported that there were now twelve Cooperative Societies within the parish—each playing an important part in the life and devolopment of our communities. The Catechists were soundly praised and complimented for their outstanding and sacrificial services rendered to these organizations.

"All the day to day problems fall upon their shoulders and they bear them all in faith and goodwill.

Catechists W. A. Blair and J. F. Munro were re-elected to the posts of vice-president and secretary of Conference, respectively.

A sincere and hearty welcome was extended to Catechist Roup who, through illness, was absent from the previous conference and who had also been absent from his post for one year. Catechist Roup very suitably replied.

The Sunday School Hour was conducted by Mrs. Magalee and by Miss Marianne Fague who gave a sound and instructive lesson. During this session opportunity was taken to introduce the new Sunday School

The Service of Holy Communion

As always, this solemn Service highlighted the Conference and welded every heart to the focus of Christ the Lord. Pastor Ingalls preached a challenging sermon to an over-crowded congregation and the great hymns of the Church were sung with power and might.

Vespers:- Catechist Nathan Roup and Pastor Magalee read the liturgy. The winners of the "Parish Banner" were presented with their coveted trophy. As though anticipating a victory Catechist Blair had brought all, except one, of his Church Council. Boldly and proudly they presented themselves before the chancel to receive the congratulations of the donor, Mrs. Magalee, and from their fellow brethren. The total points they received were 891.

Grace Congregation for the third and two consecutive times brought second place with 806 points and Reformation third with 711 points.

Catechist Blair, on behalf of this group and congregation expressed fitting thanks for the honour they had achieved and defiantly challenged his brethren to take it away in the future. This victory registers Mt. Carmel Church as having won the banner for the third time.

During the service a movie entitled "The Promise" was projected and this grand service came to a close with the singing of the doxology.

Social:- The traditional Saturday night "get-together" was a delightful event. Every one, both young and old entered into the spirit of the evening. There were speeches, songs, recitations and never before so many jokes. Our memories are still, full of "Powley and Jo-zee" and above all of old friendships rekindled and of new ones made.

Farewell:- On Monday morning after a good breakfast everyone gathered in the School Hall and Vice-president Blair conducted the closing devotions. At the conclusion Catechist Blair, on behalf of Conference, expressed warm thanks to Catechist Munro and Grace Congregation for the splendid way they conducted themselves as hosts. He said that a new standard in entertainment and friendship had been established, one which would be difficult to copy. Other speakers were Councilmen William Reece, Jno. Reece, Fred Smith, Mrs. Louisa Eversley, Miss Ruth Zartman and Pastor Magalee. Catechist Munro suitably replied, after which, with hands clasped in Christian love and fellowship, the thunderous music of the hymn "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love" burst forth from the melodious voices of God's children as they separated one from the other to go forth as "STAR-LED CHRISTIANS" to labour in His vineyard.

MT. OLIVET, Kwakwani. Catechist Nathan Roup. On Septugesima Sunday Catechist Roup was welcomed back to the congregations. At the river-side chapel, Mr. Theodore Phillips spoke in glowing terms of the Catechist and expressed the hope that his health will continue to improve. Catechist Roup suitably replied. He spoke at the evening service in the Park.

It was a year since Catechist Roup was absent on account of a cancer operation. Even though he has not fully recovered he has returned to Kwakwani and will be assisted in his work by the teachers of the school.

The school welcomed two new teachers. Mr. Kenneth Birbalsingh, a First Class Teacher from the Teachers' Training College is the new head teacher and Mr. Haman Yassim, who holds the Senior Cambridge and G.C.E. certificates has succeeded Mr. Rambarran.

Negotiations are now being carried out with the management of the Reynolds Metals Company for a site for the building of a Catechist's residence. The Education Department is pursuing similar negotiation for the erection of a headteacher's houses

MT. CARMEL, Ituni. Catechist W. A. Blair. A very lovely wedding took place on February 14 when Mr. Rupert Thomas and Miss Venus Reid exchanged marriage vows. Mr. William Blair, Jnr. and Miss Shirley Reid performed the duties of bestman and bridesmaid, respectively.

The reception was held in the school hall where the bestman faithfully promised the guests to follow in the footsteps of the bridegroom, as early as possible

The engagment of Miss Sarah Fox to Mr. Ruel Grannum has been announced and the marriage is fixed for April 4.

Mrs. Carmen Fryer who served as asst-teacher for the past two years has left her post to prepare for her marriage to Mr. Irving Lindie.
Succeeding Mrs. Fryer is Miss Martha Walker

The new officers of the Logging Coopt. Society are Mr. Dodman Campbell, President, Mr. William Blair Jnr., Secretary and Mr. Elkhana Reece, Treasurer.

Elections were also held at the Wakamukru Logging Coopt. Society and Mr. Thomas Bell is Chairman, Mr. Louis Veveiros, Secretary and Mr. Joseph Reece, Treasurer.

ST. PAUL, Maria Henrietta Catechist C.J. Duggin. At its Annual Congregational meeting Mr. Isaac Melville was re-elected to serve on the Church Council and Mr. Josephus Reece was elected to serve in Mr. Burgh's place.

Because of a break-down in the tug, in which he was travelling, the Pastor was four hours late for the Communion Service. In time for the Sunday School hour, word was sent by the pupils that the service will be held in the evening. A surprisingly good attendance was the result. The Lord's Supper was administered to the sick and shut-in the next day and meetings of the various organizations were held.

St. Paul School welcomes its new Asst-teacher, Miss Vilma Jerrick of New Amsterdam. She has entered work with great zeal and enthusiasm and will undoubtedly make a fine contribution to school and organizational programmes.

In the absence of the Swan the Pastor received and enjoyed the hospitality of Catechist Duggin. He now heartily recommends Aunt Mat for her skill in the preparation of curried butter-beans.

MT. HERMON, St. Lust. Catechist C. C. Fredericks. We sympathise with the Bennett's family whose home was badly destroyed by fire a few weeks ago. Clothing and foodstuff were lost but the good folk of Mt. Hermon were prompt in their Christian love. Led by Councilman Joseph Adolph, men and women gathered leaves, rethatched and repaired the building and cleared away the debris. We commend everyone who took part in this splendid Christian service.

The wedding of Teacher Judith (Miss Judith LaFleur) was the outstanding event of the month. The Church was filled to capacity when Mr. Woodrow Leps of Grace DeVelde claimed her as his bride and wife. A reception was held in the school hall and a most enjoyable time was spent by everyone. Her attendants were her brother and her sister. Miss LaFleur gave faithful service as asst-teacher for five years and the children, particularly, will miss her very much.

Her successor is Miss Beryl Douglas who has entered her new work with much confidence. She is a good leader and was a former student of the Trinity Academy of New Amsterdam.

The newly elected officers of the Logging Coopt. Society are Mr. Wilfred Thom Chairman (re-elected), Mr. R. LaFleur, Secretary and Mr. E. LaFleur, Treasurer.

The wife of our Catechist has been away since December and is under medical care.

Miss Elsine Williams, one of our students at the B.H.S. has had an operation at the Public Hospital and is now recuperating.

Miss Bennett is also seriously ill and prayers are solicited on her behalf.

ATONEMENT, Ebeni. Catechist Basil Budhu. The school re-opened for the Easter Term as Government Aided under Reg. 95 and there is a new spirit of confidence.

Mr. Basil Budhu, formerly Headteacher of Mt. Olivet, Kwakwani becomes headteacher replacing Catechist Rajabally and Miss Eldica Bennett has succeeded Mrs.

Lupe as asst-teacher. We wish the new staff and children every success.

Mrs. Geraldine Miller successfully underwent an operation in the New Amsterdam Hospital. We are glad to report that she is now convalescing at home.

Mr. Charles DaSilva has been seriously sick and he too is expected to submit for a major operation.

REFORMATION, Kimbia. Catechist Kyte Ramessar. Within two weeks, death claimed three of Reformation's children. Whenever the Swan passed Kimbia two little chubby boys of the Walker family ran to the river-side and, as if by arrangement, each placed his left hand behind his back, and with his right, waved vigorously to us in the Swan. Whenever we passed Kimbia we especially looked forward to this enthusiastic greeting from our little friends Richard and George.

A few weeks back, as the Swan sped through Kimbia, only George ran out and waved. The engines were stopped and we turned back to find out about Richard. A voice from ashore shouted back that "Richard was dead."

Richard was the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Walker, he died a victim of round-worms.

A few days after Mr. Josiah Alexander, the oldest member of Reformation Church and indeed the oldest in the community, passed away. No one knew his correct agebut man y guessed that he was over 80. He had been ailing for a long time and received the Lord's Supper at his home. Mr. Alexander was a very loyal Christian and very devoted to his responsibilities as a member of the Church.

The third death was that of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Bender of Morganston.

We express our deep sympathy to all the bereaved and commend them to the love and care of Christ the Lord.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Mrs. Janet Barker, after months of prolonged illness, underwent an operation in the New Amsterdam hospital. She is at home once more but weak and nervous.

At the last Communion Service, Mr. Lawrence Lindie, Mr. Albert Morris and Mrs. Violet Boyle were installed as new members of the Church Council. We wish them a term of very fruitful service.

Some of the men of the Logging Society have gone far up in the Weroni Creek and are pursuing some green-heart work. Others are still in the Haraculi working on the old grant.

Our asst-teacher and organist, Miss Shirley Andrews, was married in New Amsterdam to Mr. Veral Gordon , a native of St. Vincent. We offer them our sincere congratulations and hope that circumstances will permit the new Mrs. Gordon to remain in the district so that we may continue to enjoy her good and gracious services as organist.

The engagement of Miss Zepherine Morris to Mr. Burchell Moriah has been announced. We offer them our congratulations and good wishes.

GRACE, DeVelde. Catechist J. F. Munro. All those who participated in the preparations for the Parish Conference must be congratulated for their very fine work and interest. There efforts called for many hours away from their homes and their personal responsibilities.

Work on the new ferro-concrete hostel has commenced and we hope that it will be ready for occupation in the new term.

THE WEST COAST BERBICE PARISH.

PASTOR F. L. INGALLS

GOOD SHEPHERD. The members of Good Shepherd, at their annual congregational meeting, adopted a new constitution based on the newly approved moddle constitution for congregations, and elected for the first time a council composed of the Pastor as president, Mr. Joshua Beeka as Vice-President, Mr. Seolall Sobrian as Secretary, the catechist as treasurer, Mr. Milton

Rajpaul, Mr. Philip Megnauth, Mrs. V. Nelson, and Miss Sybil Watson. The Council was installed into office on February 12th together with the installation of the Luther League.

Our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Ernest Mangal, Student in the Lutheran Training Institute for his services at Advent and Hope Lutheran Churches for the past month, while the congregations were without a catechist.

CHRIST. The constitution of Christ Church was modified at its last annual congregational meeting and the following individuals were elected by the members to serve on the Council: The Pastor as President, Mr. Frederick Luke as Vice-President, Mr. Joseph Saul as secretary, the Catechist as treasurer, Messrs. George Giant, Samaroo Joseph, A. Duff, A. Cummings and Mr. David.

Since the incorporation of the new Sunday School literature in 1956 which provides for a graded system of teaching our pupils, additional teaching have been procured as volunteers, and all of our staff is attending a **Six week Special Course For Teachers** at Armadale. These classes are being taught by Miss Ruth Zartman. We deeply appreciate the services of Miss Zartman, who has made possible this course of instruction to enrich our Sunday Schools of the parish.

THE NEW AMSTERDAM PARISH

PASTOR E. B. MEYER

EBENEZER.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and forget not all His benefits." - Psalm 103

Let us count our blessings one by one then, see what the Lord hath done for us.

Ebenezer witnessed another form of Candle Light Service on Christmas Eve night. This service together with the message presented by the Children of the Church on Christmas Sunday made our Christmas a very meaningful one.

Going over her apportionment of $1,667.00 for 1955, and meeting all other current expenses, Ebenezer's congregation commenced the year 1956 with a credit balanace of $237.48.

Annual Congregational Meeting. After the evening service of January 22, 1956, members remained and discussed the business for the year 1956.

Two actions taken unanimously at the meeting disclose that Christian Stewardship is certainly fast becoming a part and parcel in the lives of our members. The actions taken were:

(1) Adopting the amount of $1,820.00 as the apportionment for the year 1956
(2) Adopting the project of raising the sum of $1, 800.00, in order to defray the expenses of repairing the Hammond Organ, which is presently out of order. How, we miss the beautiful music which came forth from our organ these past fifteen years. Yes, even machines wear! The repair of the organ is a challenge to us.

Let us not think in terms of "No Money," No Repairs, "No Music," but rather let us pray that God will strengthen us, use us to do His Will at all times.

Councilmen.

Elected at the congregational meeting were - Mr. L. Benons, re-elected for a three year term, Mr. La Bennett, for a three year term Mr. A. Bone (Jnr.) for two years, the nuexpired term of Mr. E. Johnson (resigned). Other members of the council are Messrs. D. Sam, S. Alonzo, V. Williams, C. S. Chu. Refreshments were served after the meeting.

Visitation. Plans are afoot for the visitation of lapsed members of the congregation, also to invite unchurched persons to the Services at Ebenezer.

Sunday School. After much prayer and due consideration it was deemed advisable to change the hour of Sunday School from 4 in the afternoon to 10.30 o'clock in the morning. Please note the change of hour. Let us all, parents, pupils, teachers, cooperate and give the new Sunday School hour as fair a try as possible. Who ca tell, may be we'll find it more convenient. Let's try.

Installation of Office. During the evening service o February 12, officers of

the various organizations together with the teachers of the Sunday School were installed.

Universal Week of Prayer; Ebenezer, joined with the other Protestant Churches in observing the Universal week of prayer, commencing January 2. With the inter change of pulpits, it was our Pastor's privilege to deliver the morning message at the Congregational Church. Here, at Ebenezer, the Rev. R. Duncanson brought the message. Mr. C. S. Chu conducted the Liturgy.

Stunt Night; To a packed hall the Junior Luther League presented a "Stunt Night". It was a huge success.

Dr. Herman L. Gilbert. We were delighted to have the Board's Secretary worship with us; also to bring the message at the 9 a.m. service on February 19. It certainly would be something strange to us, if with Dr. Gilbert's visit, he did not favor us at Ebenezer with a message. Thank you Dr. Gilbert. You lifted us, you certainly helped to prepare us for the sacred season.

THE SYNODICAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE

by Lady Missionary MARRIANNE FAGUE

The Women's League in British Guiana has begun a new venture of having district rallies. District Rallies were held on February 12th at three places. One was held at St. Timothy's, Stanleytown to which women came from New Amsterdam Fyrish, Williamsburg, and Betsy Ground Another was held at Holy Trinity Buxton; women from Epiphany, Victoria, Holy Trinity and visitors from most of the other congregations on the East Coast Demerara came to this one The third was held at Advent, Armadale and women from Good Shepherd, Nazareth, Hope, Christ and Advent attended. The main purpose of this rally was to explain our project of building the first cotttge of an old folk's home with our Thank-offerings by our next convention in 1957.

The East Coast Demerara Rally was well attended. Mrs. Redway, wife of a Congregational Pastor, was the speaker. Attractive posters and the hospitality of the Buxton group added a great deal to the rally At the West Coast Berbice Rally there were about fifty people. The speaker was Mr. Cyril Chu of New Amsterdam. He gave a practical and inspiring message. Everybody enjoyed the welcome that was cordially extended by the Advent women. At the Berbice Rally at St. Timothy's Mr. I. Ying, who is the manager of Bookers Drug Store, was the guest speaker. He gave an inspiring message on I. Chronicles 29.5. Representatives from each league also participated in the program. An informal social hour followed each rally with light refreshments served by the host league.

	Offering till Convention	Thankoffering Received at Rally	Total
St. Paul, Maria Henrietta	$ 8.00	$ 10.33	$ 18.33
Christ, Seafield	13.49	4.25	17.74
Advent, Armadale	31.85	11.66	43.51
Good Shepherd, Rosignol	35.37	6.05	41.42
Resurrection, No. 7	24.14	3.00	27.14
St. Peter, Fyrish	5.76	13.31	19.07
St. John, Williamsburg	5.25	13.56	18.81
Nazareth, No. 3	4 69	3.43	8.12
Holy Trinity, Buxton	14.00	10.00	24.00
Ebenezer, New, Amsterdam	12.00	20.50	32.50
Transfiguration, Betsy Ground		14.40	14 40
St. Timothy, Stanleytown		25.00	25 00
Holy Communion, Victoria		18.25	18.25
West Coast, loose offerings			12.62
East Coast, loose offerings			10.69
Berbice, loose offerings			7.11
TOTAL	$164.55	TOTAL	$ 348.71